

I have lived in Hadley Wood for almost 14 years with my family with both my children attending the local primary school, so I consider myself a local resident.

I and my family value all the green spaces within Hadley Wood and one of the main reasons for moving here and staying in the locality is that it is surrounded by Green Belt, which protects and enhances the special character of the area.

I therefore object in the strongest terms to the proposed site allocation, which would allow the development of 160 homes on Green Belt land.

I set out below my reasons for this.

1. NOT A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LOCATION. Whilst good growth and development is welcomed, amenities and infrastructure would require significant investment to accommodate a meaningful increase in the number of residents through the development of site SA45 or intensification around the station. Hadley Wood lacks schools, healthcare, shopping and leisure facilities, local public transport is poor and drainage/sewers inadequate. It is a car-dependent location, and key roads operate at over 100% of capacity, and congestion is already a major problem which causes air pollution and thus increases climate change effects. This proposal will only make matters much worse for everyone.

2. SAVE OUR GREEN BELT. The Green Belt must be protected and conserved as it serves vital purposes including separation from Barnet and Potters Bar, helping air quality in the borough and biodiversity. The centuries' old grasslands are an important resource for carbon sequestration.

3. PLAN WILL DESTROY OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE LANDSCAPE. The Hadley Wood meadows under threat are part of the established Green Belt in an Area of Special Character across three boroughs. They provide visual harmony for many walkers and cyclists, are the setting for two Conservation Areas and their loss would greatly harm the heritage value of both Hadley Wood and Monken Hadley. The intensification plans would also cause harm to the Conservation Area. Perhaps equally importantly, particularly since Covid, the ability to enjoy these areas has helped many people with their mental health. I can see that the loss of these areas will have a drastic effect on the mental health and wellbeing of many residents in the area and put even greater strain on the limited

healthcare facilities in the area which will have further disastrous consequences which will be clearly traceable back to this proposal.

4. UNNECESSARY AND WRONG. Neither the housing supply nor demand requirement has been adequately assessed. The range of housing need numbers is too wide to justify the necessary exceptional circumstances, and various potential sources of supply, such as SIL sites, have not been assessed. There is also no evidence of compliance with the Duty to Cooperate with other boroughs.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE. As for many people this is probably the most important issue we face, and our children will face. As a clearly car-dependent location Hadley Wood is not a suitable location for a large-scale increase in housing at site SA45 or through intensification. The already existing congestion problem which we have would be massively worsened, leading to major air pollution and other adverse climate changes. The destruction of grassland, a valuable resource for carbon sequestration, would also represent a material negative impact. With many people seeing this as the most important issue of our generation I cannot understand how this proposal could even have been considered to be put forward in the first place.

Can you please therefore remove this proposed site allocation from the next edition of the Local Plan and retain the green belt status for the land.